(C O P Y)

October 27, 1928.

S
Insect Control

The Forester,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The forest insect situation in this District is on the whole not alarming. Report on the Prescott control project has already been sent you. We have requested Dr. Miller to again visit the forest after which a further report will be forwarded. The control work done last year has resulted in a greatly lessened activity within the control area. D. barberi are very active, however, outside the control areas particularly on Mingus Mountain and in the Turkey Creek and Camp Wood vicinities. These areas will be covered in detail in the later report.

The outbreak of Ellopia in the vicinity of Cloudcroft on the Lincoln has already come to your attention. In accordance with Mr. Burke's recommendation, the Supervisor will keep close watch of the situation during the winter and spring and if a heavy infestation is indicated, the matter will be taken up further as to the control measures the Southern Pacific Railway wish to undertake.

An exceptionally heavy infestation of spruce budworm has been noted on the Santa Fe Forest along the trail from Spirit Lake to Winsor Canyon within the Pecos Working Circle on the west side of the Pecos River. The infestation covers approximately two sections. The stand is largely Engelmann spruce, but with some Douglas fir, cork bark fir and white fir. Small trees under three feet high looked practically dead and large trees show severe injury from top to bottom. Ends of branches are apparently killed back about three feet and terminal shoots about 6 inches. This infestation is in an important recreational area.

All the available literature on the subject has been reviewed to learn what methods of control are practical and what the ultimate result will be. There is very little published data regarding the spruce bud worm available in the file here. This office will appreciate information as to whether there have been any recent developments in the practical control of budworm infestations. If possible, this area should be visited by an entomologist in order that we may have the benefit of his experience. The supervisor reports spruce budworm damage over the entire forest in the mixed type.

For your information the following summary of the several forest reports is being made:

Apache: Condition normal.

Carson: The tent caterpillar infestation on aspen previously reported continues to spread, but the damage is not serious since the defoliated trees put out new leaves during June.

Areas of spruce budworm infestation have appeared in various parts of the forest, while other former attacks have apparently subsided. According to the Supervisor's report, no serious damage is being done by these insects.

Coconino: Condition about normal. Ips have been rather active, especially in reproduction, on or near cutover areas. Several species of Dendroctonus are at work on the forest, but the number of sorrel-topped trees are considered only normal by the Supervisor.

Coronado: No serious infestation noted. The defoliator attack at the head of Madera Canyon reported last year has abated and examination this year shows no loss of reproduction because of the defoliation.

Crook: No serious infestation noted. Minor outbreaks of Ips appeared along the Swift Trail.

Datil: No serious infestation noted. Previous outbreaks have entirely subsided.

Gila: Conditions normal.

Lincoln: In addition to the looper attack near Cloudcroft the Supervisor reports an attack of D. engelmanni on a comparatively isolated stand of Engelmann spruce in Hay Canyon. This attack is probably a spread eastward from the Wills Canyon area. Last year the spread was northerly across thesummit into the east fork of Water Canyon, largely on privately owned land and adjoining the new 5/14/28 cutover area. This area is being watched closely to prevent, if possible, the loss of the reserved stand.

The D. barberi and Ips attacks previously reported continue endemic.

Manzano: Previously reported infestations are now reported endemic.

Prescott: See previous statement. Ips work which was exceedingly heavy in the immediate past is now entirely endemic. It is probable that the control work done last winter on D. barberi is largely responsible for this since most of the trees cut were more or less infested with Ips as well as D. barberi.

Santa Fe: Aside from the spruce budworm attack previously mentioned, the insect situation appears normal.

Sitgreaves: Situation normal.

Tonto: Situation normal.

Tusayan: Quite a number of red and sorrel-top trees were noted in the vicinity of Bill Williams Mtn. The Supervisor reports that these are largely lightning struck trees and that the mortality does not appear to be greater than may annually be expected.

While not specifically mentioned in the reports from the several forests, it is understood that damage by tip moth has been less in 1928 than formerly.

As before stated, the insect situation in the District as a whole is now rather satisfactory and we hope for continued improvement. Much has been learned about forest insects and control methods. Ranger McNelty of the Prescott has contributed materially through his experimental work with the solar head method of control.

Very truly yours,

FRANK C.W.POOLER, District Forester,

By (s) Quincy Randles Acting